

From: [David F Forte](#)
To: [Melissa Wojnaroski](#)
Subject: Comments on Human Trafficking Report
Date: Monday, January 09, 2017 4:31:11 PM

Dear Melissa,

Thank you for sending me the report. I have only a couple of brief comments.

First and foremost, I wish to compliment the drafter or drafters of the report. It is precise, clear, and very well written. It describes the severity of the problem in factual terms without the need for emotional language. One's outrage comes from the facts as presented by this clear and professionally done report.

I recall being very much impressed with two facts presented by those who testified. One was a woman who had been a victim and later turned prostitute from her experience. She said in so many words, and we should include this point, that most women we see making their living as prostitutes are not mere "sex workers" who have chosen that "profession." They are there from force, from trauma, and from not having a chance to be anything else. After her testimony, I remember being repelled by the memory of what some people a decade or so used to say that somehow prostitution was "liberating."

The second, I believe the witness was Haggerty, described how children who resisted being forced into the sex trade were treated by their captors. For girls, it was brute physical and psychological force: they were beaten and threatened and told how they would be shamed by their families. For boys, it was more pernicious: they were told that being gay means that you are supposed to be promiscuous. The insidious manner in which these people traumatize and distort these children's psychological sense of identity and morality should be clearly emphasized, or more so, in the report.

Thanks for your good work.

David Forte